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increased precipitation over the area where the Buffalo Grass is most at home. Two circumstances, however, now exist and have existed only recently, which may act injuriously upon this plant, namely, the extinction of the buffalo and the marked decrease of prairie fires. The Buffalo Grass withstands the treading of herds with perfect impunity; nay, such treading, by tamping the ground around the wandering stolons, secures better rooting and stronger growth ; not so, however, with other plants against which the Buffalo Grass must compete, and which are destroyed by the tramping of herds. With the disappearance of the buffalo, these competitors have been gaining strength and, by their larger and longer roots, are steadily driving their weaker sister from the field. In a like manner, we may assume that prairie fires did little harm to the Buffalo Grass, owing to its low stature, while they were injurious to the plants which are now taking its place.

The worst fault of the Buffalo Grass is that, not content with its own merits, it has long usurped, in our esteem, the place of a far more valuable plant, the grass *par excellence* which fed the buffalo and which, to-day, should, *facile princeps*, command the homage of all the raisers of cattle beyond the Missouri River. I refer to the common Grama (*Bouteloua oligostachya*, Torr.) The Grama is found everywhere, the prevailing, predominant, ubiquitous grass of the West, from the Lakes and the Mississippi to the Pacific Coast, and from the British Possessions to Mexico, forming the bulk of the best sod of all the prairie regions of the Western States and Territories, and constituting the best natural resource of several of them. For it I ask, at least, the attention and regard bestowed upon the less worthy Buffalo Grass.

Botanical Notes.

Concerning Nomenclature.—The editor of the Botanical Gazette suggests that at the forthcoming meeting of the A. A. A. S. the pending differences of opinion as to the laws of nomenclature should be taken up and "settled." While the proposition to "settle" this question is somewhat ambitious, and one on which that portion of the scientific world not represented in the A. A. A. S. might wish to be heard, the idea of making it the subject of earnest discussion is a most excellent one. It is just possible that when it is found that the mountain will not come to Mohammed, Mohammed may conclude to move to the mountain; not at all because there is any principle involved, but just for the sake of "uniformity." H. H. R.

Our Native Plants Abroad.—That our native plants are appreciated for their beauty on the other side of the ocean, even if they are neglected by us, may be constantly seen by glancing over foreign botanical literature. Several of our *Solidagos* have long been favorites in England. *Calochortus cæruleus, Rubus deliciosus, Fothergilla alnifolia, Garrya elliptica, Gordonia pubescens, Gordonia Lasianthus, Cypripedium spectabile* and *Camassia Fraseri* have received particular notice lately as ornamental garden plants, and a number of others have been figured, notably in The Gardener's Chronicle and The Garden. The latter says, in a recent issue, in regard to *Robinia hispida:* "This very beautiful tree has been during the week the chief attraction in the collection of pea-flowered trees in the Kew arboretum. It has no rival among hardy trees." A. H.

Rudbeckia hirta, L.—Rudbeckias are classed as perennials, and I suppose they are. Among other plants, I had *R. hirta* growing where a cellar had to be dug this spring. On the removed earth numbers of seedling Rudbeckias sprung. They were all in full flower by July 1st, many in June. . . . One plant produces rayless heads, and what should be discoid florets are diminutive branchlets, in which numerous chaffy scales take the place of bracts. In this condition the involucral scales reflex.

THOMAS MEEHAN.

Physalis grandiflora, Hook.—This species, said in the "Flora of North America" to range from the "south shore of Lake Superior to the Saskatchewan district," was found by the writer in June, growing plentifully on an island of rather more than a hundred acres in area, in northern Lake Champlain. It was in full bloom at the time, and its showy flowers rendered it very conspicuous. The island in question is known as Providence Island, and has been unoccupied, so far as the writer is aware, until two or three years ago, when it was partially cleared and fitted up for picnic parties carried thither by a steamer belonging to the company owning the island. Since that time is has been often resorted to by excursions, but whence came the *Physalis* is a mystery. It grows chiefly upon cleared spaces with *Adlumia cirrhosa* and *Corydalis aurea*. In the "Flora of North America" this species comes under the heading "Corolla pure white, * * wholly destitute of any dark center," but in fact there are five ovate spots at the base of the corolla, of a yellowish-green when the flower first opens, but turning light yellow with age. These spots are perhaps a fourth of an inch long and quite conspicuous, adding much to the beauty of the flowers. The anthers do commonly show a more or less evident "tinge of violet," but not always, many of them being wholly yellow. It is probable that the absence of any mention of the dark center in the corolla is due, as Watson suggests, to the fact that the description of the plant in the "Flora of North America" was taken from dried specimens in which whatever color there was at first had faded. Still it is also possible that our Vermont plants may exhibit this more strongly than those from farther west. In my own dried specimens, thus far, the yellow of the center is more, rather than less, evident than in fresh specimens, although this may not be the case with those long dried. G. H. PERKINS, University of Vermont.

Hypnum (*Thuidium*) *calyptratum*, Sulliv.—A mistake in the locality given in "Lesquereux and James' Manual" has been discovered by Dr. Watson, which dates back to the publication of Whipple's Report, p. 190. Instead of its having been found "near Los Angeles, Cal., on the ground" by Dr. Bigelow, he collected it "on rocks, Ben More, New Mexico, May, 1851," as shown clearly by the specimens in the Sullivant collection.

E. G. BRITTON.

Surirella ovata, Kutzing.—Please add to the list of Sorata diatoms, *Surirella ovata*, Kutzing.

C. H. KAIN.

Stellaria graminea, *L.*, which has recently been making its appearance in so many places, usually introduced in grass seed, has been found by Dr. R. G. Eccles at Catskill, N. Y.

Observations sur les Roses décrites dans le Supplementum Floræ Orientalis de Boissier, par Francois Crépin. (Ex. du Compterendu, xxvii., pp. 17.) A supplementary volume to the Flora Orientalis of Boissier is soon to appear, for which Dr. H. Christ has monographed the Roses. M. Crépin reviews his work, giving his views on the classification and newly described species, and concludes with a table of the distribution of species.

Euphorbias desired.—Dr. C. F. Millspaugh wishes to state to those who have so kindly aided him in his work upon the genus *Euphorbia*, that his field work in his locality this season has compelled him to drop his special study until autumn, when all who have identifications, &c., in his hands will be carefully remembered. The doctor will still be very thankful for specimens (either named or for identification), and also for notes on the genus, sent to his herbarium at Waverly, N. Y.

Posthumous publication of Prof. Tuckerman's Manuscripts.—Mr. Willey authorizes us to announce that it is in contemplation to publish the present season, the lichen manuscript of the late Prof. Tuckerman, comprising the Lecideacei, and the Graphidacei in part. As the edition will not be large, it would be well for those desiring the work to send their names to Henry Willey, New Bedford, Mass.

Hybridization in the genus Citrus.—Prof. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Trinidad, expresses the opinion that hybridization in the genus *Citrus* is very common. He says emphatically that they "do not generally come true from seed, unless the trees producing the seed are isolated from other species of the genus, on account of hybridization occurring among them."

Society of American Florists.—The fourth annual meeting of the Society of American Florists will be held in Cooper Union, New York, beginning August 21st. An exhibition of flowers, plants and florists' supplies and apparatus will be held at Nilsson Hall, under the auspices of the society, at the same time, and our botanists will no doubt find that considerable matter of interest to them will be discussed and exhibited. All who desire to become members for the time being with the privilege of attending the meetings and exhibitions, and enjoying the social courtesies extended to the society, may do so by remitting $2 dues to the Secretary, Wm. J. Stewart, Boston, Mass. The Secretary will also be at the Committee Room, Fifth Avenue Hotel, on Monday evening, Aug. 20th, from 8 to 10 o'clock P.M.

We are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Dr. and Mrs. Britton at the Kew Gardens, and the commencement of their researches. A. H. and H. H. R.

Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Amelanchier oligocarpa. (Garden and Forest, i., 245, 246; fig. 41.)

Araucarias (Gard. Chron., iii., 774, figs. 104, 105, 106.)

Astragalus mollissimus. (Pharm. Rec., viii., 197, 198; illustrated.)

Botany as it may be taught.—Byron D. Halsted. (Pop. Sci. Mon., xxxiii., 369-376.)

Chara.—Description of a new fossil Species of the Genus.—F. H. Knowlton. (Bot. Gaz., xiii., 156, 157; two cuts.) *Chara compressa*, described from sporostegia collected by Dr. White, near Wales, Utah. The geological horizon is regarded as lower Tertiary.

Cherokee Rose. (Garden and Forest, i., 234; illustrated.)

Coniferous Tree Seeds.—Notes on the Longevity of.—Robert Douglass. (Garden and Forest, i., 250.)

Cross-fertilization.—Notes on Structures adapted to.—Aug. F. Foerste. (Bot. Gaz., xiii., 151-156, one plate.) A record of interesting observations on fifteen native species.

Effect on Vegetation of the variable Rainfall of Northwestern Mexico.—E. Palmer. (Amer. Nat., xxii., 459-461.)

Epigæa repens. (Gard.. xxxiii., 531; illustrated.)

Eryngiums.—John M. Coulter. (Garden and Forest, i., 206.)

Erythronium Hendersonii. (Gard. Chron., iii., 652, fig. 86.)

Ferns.—W. H. Gower. (Garden, xxxiv., 9; illustrated.) Four species of California Ferns are described, viz.: *Pellæa bella*, *P. brachyptera*, *P. andromedæfolia* and *P. ornithopus*. The first named is figured.